

REMARKS

The Advisory Action failed to address Applicant's remarks and drawing amendments in the Final Office Action. Applicant therefore maintains all traversals and fully incorporates Applicant's response as filed on October 10, 2008.

Notwithstanding the above, Applicant believes the Section 102 and Section 103 rejections are no longer applicable because none of the cited references discloses a field plate as claimed, on an insulation layer that is formed on and laterally adjacent to a gate electrode (*i.e.*, the field plate is vertically above the gate electrode). These amendment are clearly supported in the specification, with specific examples shown in and described in connection with FIG. 1 (*e.g.*, field plate portion 52b is located on an insulation layer 38 that is formed both on and laterally adjacent to a gate electrode 36). As consistent with the Examiner's indication via teleconference on November 28, 2008, Applicant believes that the Section 102 and 103 rejections should be removed.

Applicant further believes the objections/rejections are also overcome, in view of Applicant's incorporated discussion (and as also briefly discussed via telephone with the Examiner). Applicant has highlighted improprieties of these objections/rejections in the remarks below, and further invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned to discuss the same, prior to issuing any Office Action.

The objections to the drawings are clearly improper, because the indicated missing reference character "48" is no longer present in the drawings, and any boundary between "regions 46 and 34" (as confusingly referenced by the Examiner) is not relevant to the claims. Should the Examiner require clarification as to the position of regions 46 and 34, Applicant refers the Examiner to FIG. 1, which shows a line between regions 46 and 34 at a position that is near the end of the arrow extending from reference number 26.

The Section 112(1) rejection of claim 11 is improper because it is based upon a misunderstanding of electrical coupling (*e.g.*, capacitive coupling). As exemplified in FIG. 1 and described at paragraph 16, the indicated "field plate" arrangement includes a plurality of metallic segments that apply a distributed electric field, as facilitated by the capacitive distribution of voltage between the segments, via the dielectric material. This capacitive coupling effects the claimed distribution, which would not be possible, for example, were the segments part of a contiguous plate (*i.e.*, at the same voltage).

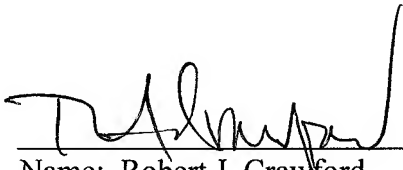
The Section 112(1) rejection of claim 14 is also improper because it is based upon a misunderstood assertion regarding the operation of the claimed structure that is neither claimed nor consistent with well-understood operation of field-effect devices. The rejection states that the limitations “may imply that the voltage/potential inside the recited lateral drift region is non-linearly distributed, given the derivative relationship between the field strength and the potential.” Applicant is unclear as to how the Examiner’s assertion that there must be a derivative relationship and/or how that would affect the claimed structure (*i.e.*, the Applicant has not claimed a linear voltage distribution inside the drift region), and therefore submits that the rejection is unclear and confusing. Moreover, the Office Action has failed to provide any support for the assertion that the indicated distribution would be “derivative” and, therefore, nonlinear. Notwithstanding this lack of clarity, Applicant submits that the Specification clearly describes examples involving such a linear field distribution in a drift region, as effected via voltage application by an adjacent field plate arrangement. For instance, referring to FIG. 1, as the various field plate regions (*e.g.*, 52a, 54, 52b) are subjected to a distributed voltage, the respective field applied to the underlying lateral drift region 32 can be linear as claimed. This is consistent with the discussion at paragraphs 0018 and 0020.

The Section 112(2) rejections of claims 1-12, based solely on claim 1, are improper because the Office Action’s indicated requirement that claim 1 limit the application of its electric field goes beyond the requirements of Section 112(2). Notwithstanding this, Applicant believes that the objection is no longer applicable, as claim 1 recites “linear lateral electric field distribution in the lateral drift region.”

In view of the above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections/objections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Peter Zawilski, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9063.

Please direct all correspondence to:

Corporate Patent Counsel
NXP Intellectual Property & Standards
1109 McKay Drive; Mail Stop SJ41
San Jose, CA 95131
CUSTOMER NO. 65913

By: 
Name: Robert J. Crawford
Reg. No.: 32,122
(NXPS.493PA)